



# AMERICAN OBSERVER

News and Issues—With Pros and Cons

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## Here and Abroad

People—Places—Events

### ATOMIC INFORMATION

The Atomic Energy Commission recently made over 10,000 reports on research projects available to the public. This was done as part of a program to aid the development of America's infant private atomic-power industry.

### TREE BELT

Communist China has announced that it will plant a belt of trees 3,000 miles across the country's northern border. The trees will protect the land from the shifting sands of the Gobi Desert, which stretches between China and Mongolia.

### GROWING STOCKPILE

The United States has stockpiled over half of the important war materials it will need in the event of an emergency. The Office of Defense Mobilization reports that it has more than 6⅓ billion dollars' worth of metals and minerals stored in government depots and warehouses. It is constantly increasing these stockpiles of vital materials.

### MAYAN CITY

The government of Guatemala and the University of Pennsylvania are cooperating to bring back to life a city that has been dead for 11 centuries. Workers have begun restoration of Tikal, a city of the Mayan Indians in Guatemala that flourished from 300 to 900 A.D. The rebuilding will cost about \$6,000,000 and may take more than 10 years.

### MORE WOMEN WORK

By 1965, almost 1 out of 3 American workers will be women, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. From 1940 to 1965, the number of employed men will have risen from 41 to 53 million. During that same period, women workers will have increased from 14 to 24 million.

### LEARNING ENGLISH

High school students in Afghanistan will soon be learning English as their second language. Financed by the United States government, a group of teachers from Columbia University will travel to that Asian land to help set up the program. The United States has been aiding Afghanistan's educational system since 1954.

### ABSENT EMPLOYEES

Employees who do not show up for work at their office or factory cost at least 5 billion dollars a year in losses to industry, according to an estimate by the Research Council for Economic Security. This figure represents the value of the services and lost production of the 1 million workers who, because of health or other reasons, stay away from their jobs each day.



SHOULD THE VOTING AGE throughout the nation be lowered from 21 to 18? Only Georgia and Kentucky now permit 18-year-olds to vote.

## Trim the Voting Age?

In 2 States, 18-Year-Olds May Cast Ballots, but Elsewhere Young People Must Be 21 to Go to Polls

IN 1943, Georgia reduced the minimum voting age to 18. Now, beginning with the 1956 elections, Kentucky is doing the same. All the rest of our nation still uses the same age of "political adulthood"—21—that America's English colonists had known in their mother country.

Is it advisable to bring the minimum voting age down below 21? Should additional states be encouraged to follow the example of Georgia and Kentucky? Should our nation as a whole establish a uniform lower limit of 18? Concerning these questions there are 3 major viewpoints:

1. "The U. S. Constitution should be amended so as to establish 18 as the minimum voting age in our nation."

2. "People of 18, 19, and 20 are too young to receive the ballot, and a reduction in the voting age is therefore unwise."

3. "The voting age should be lowered—but not by federal action. This matter should be left in the states' hands, where it is now."

Let us look at these viewpoints in further detail.

**Federal action?** Nation-wide measures to reduce the minimum voting age are advocated by a number of prominent Americans, including President Eisenhower. The Chief Executive says: "For years our citizens between the ages of 18 and 21 have, in time of peril, been summoned to fight for America." They should also be allowed to participate in the nation's government, he concludes.

At least twice, Eisenhower has asked Congress to propose a constitutional amendment which would let young people, throughout our country, go to the polls at 18. The present Congress has taken no final action on any such measure. To be adopted, the amendment would need approval first by a two-thirds majority in each house of Congress, and then by three-fourths of the states.

People who favor such an amendment argue as follows:

(Concluded on page 2)

## Urgent Problems Confront Britain

Tour of Russian Leaders This Week Focuses Attention on Island Nation

THIS week Nikolai Bulganin and Nikita Khrushchev, Soviet Russia's 2 top-ranking leaders, are scheduled to arrive in Great Britain. Their visit will last from April 18 to 27. They will attend various social events, make trips around the country, and hold talks with Prime Minister Anthony Eden and Foreign Minister Selwyn Lloyd.

It was at last summer's Geneva Conference that Prime Minister Eden invited Khrushchev and Bulganin to visit Britain. The spirit of cooperation among the big western powers (Britain, France, and the United States) and the Soviet Union was in full bloom. The idea of having the Russian leaders visit Great Britain seemed a good one in promoting understanding.

Since that time, some doubts have arisen among the British as to the wisdom of the Russians' visit. The cooperation expected after the Geneva meeting did not come about. In December, Bulganin and Khrushchev visited India, Burma, and Afghanistan, and strongly criticized Britain and the other western nations.

British leaders are not too optimistic about the results of the visit. Nevertheless, they intend to accomplish all they can from talks with the Soviet officials. They are especially hopeful of improving the Middle East situation, where they are in serious trouble today.

The decline in Britain's prestige in the Middle East is a matter of serious concern to her leaders. For centuries, she was the foremost world power. The little island nation off the continent of Europe controlled vast areas on almost all continents. Income derived from investments and trade with her overseas possessions made Britain a well-to-do and influential country.

But in recent years, that nation's global position has changed greatly. After World War II, many of its territories demanded their freedom. Burma, India, Ceylon, and Pakistan became independent countries. The British withdrew from Palestine. Other territories are moving toward self-rule soon—among them Malaya, Nigeria, and the Gold Coast.

Nowhere, though, has Britain's influence declined more than it has during recent months in the Middle East. For many years, she was the big power in this area. She had close ties with such Arab lands as Jordan and Egypt, and held an important military base at Suez. The Suez Canal was a vital link in the "lifeline" con-

(Continued on page 6)

# Question of Lowering the Voting Age Is Debated

(Concluded from page 1)

"Young citizens in all states deserve to be given the ballot. A great many 18-year-olds were drafted for military service during World War II, and men of 18½ or over are being drafted today.

"If a person is old enough to help defend his country, and undergo the sacrifices and dangers of military life, then surely he should be regarded as old enough to vote. Youthful members of the armed forces are proving their qualifications as valuable adult citizens of the United States.

"So long as Uncle Sam imposes upon 18-year-olds the responsibility of military service, he should grant them also the privilege of voting. As Eisenhower says, they should be allowed to help choose the government under which they must serve as soldiers.

"Young people are fully capable of becoming voters at 18. Many are starting to earn their own livings at that age.

"U. S. high school graduates today are better informed about current affairs than are many older persons. In high school, the teen-agers have been studying about the workings of national, state, and local governments. Through their classes they have kept in close touch with the problems of our nation and of the world.

## Meyner's Views

"Says Governor Robert Meyner of New Jersey: 'We spend a lot of money to educate our youth in order that they may become good citizens. Then we make them wait around 3 or 4 years before we let them vote.' For the benefit of our nation and of the young people themselves, we should start earlier in making full use of their knowledge and enthusiasm in choosing our leaders.

"The teen-agers are accustomed to asking questions and demanding explanations. They would keep candidates on the alert more than do our older voters.

"Meanwhile, there is no reason for anyone to fear that we would be 'turning the country over to youth.' People in the 18-through-20 group—now numbering between 6 and 7 million—would make up a comparatively small part of the country's total voting population.

"As to the method of achieving a reduction in the voting age, federal action would be best. If teen-age voting is desirable at all, it is desirable for the whole country. Let's adopt it on a nation-wide scale.

"There is nothing new or unusual about setting voters' qualifications by means of an amendment to the U. S. Constitution. Look at the 19th Amendment; it was adopted just 36 years ago to guarantee women the ballot on equal terms with men. Going back still further in our history, the 15th Amendment gave Negro men the right to vote.

"Young people throughout America are a great deal alike. If members of the 18-19-20 age group are capable of voting in one or more states, then surely they are capable in all of our states."

Republican Senator Knowland of California is among the lawmakers who have supported a federal amendment to permit teen-age voting. Another is Democratic Senator Kefauver

of Tennessee, who comments: "We would have better balance, better government," if 18-year-olds were permitted to cast ballots.

"Youths shouldn't vote until they reach 21," is a reply frequently heard. People with this viewpoint argue:

"The majority of young people 18 through 20 are just beginning to acquire experience in their first jobs, or are entering military service, or are still in school. Before reaching 21 they can decidedly increase their knowledge—learn more about serving their country and about cooperating with others. They should have this added time and experience before voting. In today's complicated world, the voter needs much preparation.

"It is doubtful whether today's 18-

man: 'The more a man knows, the more intelligently he can vote. I do not think he has [enough] knowledge at 18. Twenty-one is a better age; 24 would be still better.'

"The fact that we draft men under 21 is not a good reason for lowering the voting age. Teen-agers and 20-year-olds have made excellent war records. They have the youth, the strength, the courage, and the mechanical ability to be good soldiers, sailors, and airmen. But this does not prove that teen-agers have the experience and knowledge which good voters need. It takes much time to acquire political judgment.

"Some time ago, a New York college student said: 'Has the United States become so militarized that service in

and definitely required. Such people don't think the teen-age voting question is of urgent national concern. Louisiana's Governor Robert Kennon says he favors 18-year-old voting, but adds: 'I don't want the federal government to have anything to do with it.'

Another official who urges a reduction in the voting age is Governor Allan Shivers of Texas. He says: "The 18-year-old person of today is as mature as the 21-year-old was when that age limit was set." Shivers indicates, however, that he prefers to see the change accomplished by the individual states rather than by our federal government.

At present, our federal government lays down no rules on the voting age. The U. S. Constitution leaves regulation of this matter entirely to the various states. The general arguments of people who think this situation should continue are as follows:

"The federal government should handle only those affairs which the states cannot manage for themselves. Such questions as that of the voting age should be left for the individual states to decide without federal interference. There has been a tendency, in recent years, for the national government to assume too much authority in too many fields.

"Our opponents claim that we merely use the states' rights argument for delay—to stall and prevent teen-age voting. Such accusations are not true. Consider this fact: The South, more than any other region, protests vigorously against federal action on matters which our states might handle. At the same time, the South is the only region where any teen-agers at all will cast ballots this year."

**In conclusion.** Voting is just one of many ways by which the good citizen takes part in national, state, and local affairs. Opinions differ on whether young people in the 18-19-20 group should be admitted to the polls. But, regardless of whether they may vote, these youths can and should play an active role in political work.

Teen-agers can become well informed on national and local problems, form opinions and try to convince others, write letters to congressmen and to the newspapers, participate in get-out-the-vote drives, and so on.

Just a few weeks ago, one of our nation's prominent political figures told a group of high school students: "Study the issues and discuss them with your parents and other people. You'll be surprised by the amount of influence you can have."

What do you think about the question of teen-age voting? Write and tell us your views. —By TOM MYER



TEEN-AGERS in Georgia registering to vote in an election

year-olds are as mature as were those of older generations. Many years ago, when the United States was largely rural, young people did chores, helped tend the crops, and so on. They learned to accept considerable responsibility while very young.

"At present, of course, there are many youths who carry sizable responsibilities around the home and elsewhere. But, in general, the tendency is toward sheltering young people longer now than formerly. As a result, they don't 'grow up' so quickly. This isn't necessarily a bad situation, but it is a sound reason for refusing to lower the voting age.

"Many teen-agers, if given the ballot, would fail to use independent judgment. Large numbers would simply vote as their parents do.

"Certain democratic countries even regard 21 as too young. In Denmark and the Netherlands, for example, people cannot vote until they reach 23.

"Says former President Harry Tru-

man: 'The more a man knows, the more intelligently he can vote. I do not think he has [enough] knowledge at 18. Twenty-one is a better age; 24 would be still better.'

"Leave it to the states." Here is a third viewpoint in the voting-age controversy. There are many observers who favor a reduction in the voting age, but who oppose federal action on such matters. "Let each state do as it pleases," they argue. U. S. Senator Richard Russell, who agrees that 18-year-old voting has "worked out quite well" in his home state of Georgia, is among those who want the whole issue to remain in the hands of the individual states.

Senator Russell and numerous other people who oppose federal action on teen-age voting insist that we should leave such political problems to the state and local governments, except when nation-wide measures are clearly

## Pronunciations

basenji—bā'sēn-yē

Dag Hammarskjöld—dā hām'mer-shūlt'

Eger Murphree—ē'gēr mūr'frē

Gobi—gō'bē

Nehru—nē'rō

Nikita Khrushchev—nyī-kē'tuh krōosh-chawf

Nikolai Bulganin—nē'kō-lī būl-gā'nīn

P. H. Shinnick—P. H. shī-nīk'ē

Soekarno—sōō-kār-nō

Syngman Rhee—sōōng-mān rē

Tikal—tē-kāl'





# The Story of the Week

## Under Fire

One of the busiest men in Washington today is the new Defense Department Special Assistant for Guided Missiles, Eger Vaughan Murphree. Mr. Murphree will fill this post while on leave of absence as president of the Esso Research and Engineering Company, a subsidiary of Standard Oil of New Jersey. He will not receive any compensation from the government during the term of his service.

The appointment of Mr. Murphree, on this basis, has drawn sharp criticism from certain Democratic members of Congress. They say that it is not a good thing for a business executive to serve in an important government post without receiving a salary.



**EGER MURPHREE**, director of the U. S. program to develop guided missiles. Shortly after his appointment came the announcement that a U. S. guided missile had traveled a distance of 2,000 miles.

The danger is too great that his loyalties will be divided between government responsibilities and private business ties, these people insist.

In reply, it is stated that guided missiles development has no connection with the business affairs of Esso or Standard Oil of New Jersey.

Whatever the outcome of this dispute may be, it is clear that Americans are taking the guided missiles race with Russia very seriously. Shortly after Mr. Murphree's appointment, it was learned that an Air Force Northrup Snark had made a 2,000-mile flight. This is the greatest distance that any pilotless aircraft is known to have traveled so far.

## Good or Bad Congress?

The second session of the 84th Congress, which began its work January 3 of this year, is now more than 3 months old. What kind of record is the Democratically controlled Congress making for itself?

"It is a do-nothing Congress," say the Republicans. They contend: "After more than 3 months of work, congressmen have little to show for time spent on Capitol Hill. The Democratic leaders in Congress have been dragging their feet and appear to be making very little effort to get needed laws enacted. They've done a minimum toward enacting President Eisenhower's 1956 legislative program into law."

"The record of Congress thus far," Democrats reply, "is better than average. Over 400 bills have already been passed, including measures dealing

with farm problems, a power and irrigation project on the Colorado River, and changes in our tax laws. In addition, a good deal of progress has been made on a host of other bills now being considered on Capitol Hill."

## Iceland's Choice

We and our allies will keep a close watch on elections to be held in tiny Iceland next June. At that time, the island's voters will elect a new parliament which will then decide whether to vote down or uphold a decision—asking U. S. troops to leave Iceland—made by the present lawmaking body.

The island country, which is about the size of Kentucky and has some 160,000 people, is located nearly midway between New York and Moscow in the North Atlantic Ocean. Iceland is allied with us in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and we consider the island as a vital link in the free world's defenses. The little land is an important radar listening post for keeping track of Red military activities in the North Atlantic area.

Iceland's communists have been especially noisy in their demands that we get out of the land. Observers believe that if the country's anti-Red parties can make a good showing in the forthcoming elections, Iceland will agree to let American forces remain there.

Our troops were stationed in Iceland during World War II, but left shortly after that conflict ended. In 1951, we signed a treaty with Iceland under which our forces returned to help defend the rocky island against possible attack. American troops have been there ever since then.

## In a Nutshell

President Eisenhower wants a special study group to look into ways to help older Americans find work. Though job opportunities are plentiful for young workers these days, a number of persons in the 50's and 60's are finding it hard to secure steady employment, the President points out.

Meanwhile, Americans are living longer than ever before because of the progress we are making in conquering diseases and bad health. Thus, the



**NEW READING AID** for persons who need more than glasses. Materials are placed on the machine's platform. An illuminated image—magnified—then is projected onto the reading screen. The American Optical Company developed the machine, which will sell for about \$110 in principal cities.

number of unemployed older people is steadily growing.

Uncle Sam plans to test nuclear weapons in the Pacific later this month or early in May. The tests, it is believed, will include explosions of hydrogen bombs. Newsmen and civil defense officials will be invited to watch the trial explosions.

Meanwhile, Russia is also conducting atomic experiments. Not long ago, Moscow set off its sixth blast since beginning a new series of tests about 8 months ago.

Korea is in the midst of a lively election campaign. On May 15, Korean voters will choose between Syngman Rhee, who is seeking a third term as leader of his country, and P. H. Shinicky. Shinicky, 61, is a member of the Korean legislature and a bitter foe of the 81-year-old Rhee. Most observers believe that the popular Rhee will win another term of office.

## Looking Ahead

What are the prospects that we shall continue to have good times throughout 1956? Of course, no one can be certain of just what the future will bring, but the Federal Reserve Board

feels that we can look forward to continued prosperity in the months ahead. This federal agency helps supervise the nation's money policies and keeps tabs on changing economic conditions at home.

The Federal Reserve Board recently made public the results of a special survey in which sample groups of Americans across the nation were asked about the goods they plan to purchase in 1956. The study shows that more persons plan to buy homes this year than ever before. It also indicates that American purchases of automobiles and many other items will continue at a high level.

## Wanted—Voters!

Americans everywhere will have to roll up their sleeves and get to work on drives to encourage citizens to register and vote in next fall's elections. If they don't, there are likely to be fewer votes cast this year than there were in the 1952 Presidential contest. So says public opinion researcher Dr. George Gallup.

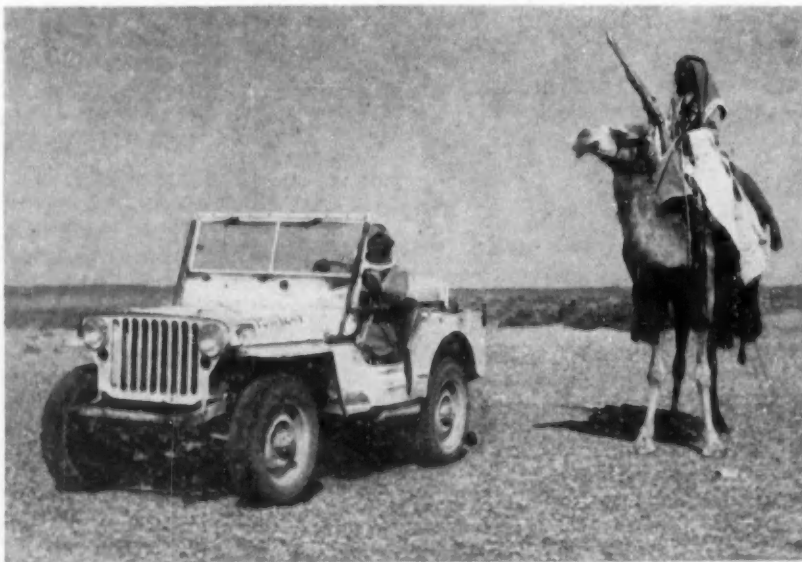
In a nation-wide sample poll, Dr. Gallup and his assistants found that fewer Americans are giving special thought to the Presidential elections this year than was the case in the spring of 1952! In that year's contest, slightly more than 6 out of every 10 eligible voters went to the polls.

How many of the estimated 104,000,000 eligible voters will cast ballots in this year's elections? Are you doing your part to encourage friends and parents to register and vote this year?

## Uniting Morocco

Ever since 1904, Morocco has been divided into 2 parts—a large area supervised by France, and a smaller coastal strip of land controlled by Spain. It was in 1904 that France and Spain agreed to a division of Morocco after fighting over the North African land for many years.

Last month, as we previously reported, France agreed to grant independence to its Moroccan territory. Now, Spain has also freed the area under its control.



**JORDAN'S Arab Legion** is a strong army. As has been done for centuries in the Middle East, the Legion uses camels for some troops—but also has jeeps and other modern equipment. Britain helped build Jordan's army, but relations between the 2 lands are now strained (see page 1 article on Britain).



Spanish Morocco is about the size of New Jersey and has some 1,400,000 inhabitants. Together, the 2 parts of Morocco have a total area that is about equal to that of California, and a combined population of approximately 10,400,000.

### Asian Visitors

The United States will welcome 2 important visitors from Asian countries in the months ahead. They are India's Prime Minister Nehru and Indonesia's President Soekarno.

India's Prime Minister plans to pay us a visit in the summer. Now 66, Nehru has played a prominent role in directing the affairs of his country ever since it became independent of British rule in 1947.

Though he strongly opposes communism at home, Nehru sometimes appears to be sympathetic toward Russia and Red China. At times he criticizes our global policies and commends those of the Reds. On certain occasions, however, he has also indicated his disapproval of Soviet actions.

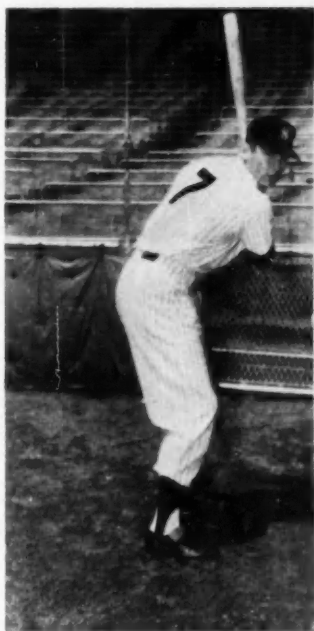
President Soekarno is expected to arrive here early in the summer. The 54-year-old Indonesian leader became his country's first president after it won its freedom from Dutch rule in 1949. Like Nehru, Soekarno has often criticized the global policies of the United States and its allies. He, too, has combatted communists at home, though.

Americans hope that the forthcoming visits of Nehru and Soekarno will help bring about closer ties between the 2 Asian lands and the United States.

### Vital Mission

Dag Hammarskjold, Secretary-General of the United Nations, is visiting the Middle East in an effort to reduce tensions between Israel and the Arab states. The threat of war in that region has grown increasingly serious during recent weeks. The day before Hammarskjold departed from New York City on his mission, more than 100 persons were killed or wounded in a 10 hour battle along the troubled Gaza Strip.

During his trip, Hammarskjold is scheduled to confer with members of the UN truce team in the area. In



THE YANKS' Mickey Mantle is ready for opening of the baseball season Tuesday. A switch-hitter, he displays his two different stances and grips.

addition, he is carrying on talks with government leaders of the various countries involved in the dispute. In all, Hammarskjold will spend approximately a month overseas before reporting back to the United Nations.

### Political Duel

Both Tennessee's Senator Estes Kefauver and the 1952 Democratic Presidential candidate, Adlai Stevenson, are stepping up their efforts to win the No. 1 place on their party's ticket for the 1956 elections. The 2 men will meet in primary elections contests to be held in Alaska, April 24; the District of Columbia, May 1; Florida, May 29; and California, June 5.

Here are the results of the state primaries in which one or both of these men have participated so far:

Senator Kefauver was an active candidate in the New Hampshire primary. Adlai Stevenson did not enter his name in that race although some of his supporters in the state campaigned for him. Kefauver received 21,000 votes and all 8 of New Hampshire's delegates to the nominating convention. Stevenson received 4,000 write-in votes.

Kefauver and Stevenson met head-on in Minnesota, the senator from Tennessee scoring a major upset vic-

tory. Kefauver ran about 50,000 votes ahead of Stevenson and won 26 of the state's 30 democratic convention delegates. Stevenson had been expected to win in Minnesota because he had the support of the state's top democratic leaders.

In the Wisconsin primary, Kefauver was unopposed and gained 28 additional delegates. In the Illinois primary, held after this paper went to press, Stevenson was the only one officially entered in the race. Although write-in votes were allowed, Stevenson was expected to win an easy victory in his home state.

### Baseball Season

Tomorrow—April 17—the big-league baseball season gets under way. Each one of the 16 clubs is scheduled to swing into action. Unless last-minute developments interfere, President Eisenhower will attend the season's opener in the nation's capital between the New York Yankees and the Washington Senators.

Most sportswriters think that the Yankees will win the American League pennant for the second year in a row. The Brooklyn Dodgers are generally considered to have the best chance of winning the National League race. If they are to repeat their victory of last year, though, the Dodgers need to come up with a replacement for World Series hero Johnny Podres. The stout-hearted young pitcher—who beat the Yankees twice in the World Series—is now serving in the U. S. Navy.

Of course, some of the other teams not now regarded as strong enough to keep the Yankees and Dodgers from winning pennants again this year may yet fool the "experts."

### Correction

In a news note appearing in the AMERICAN OBSERVER dated March 26, the name of John Quincy Adams was included among those Vice Presidents who later became Chief Executives. Adams, of course, was not Vice President under President James Monroe; he was Secretary of State. We regret the error.

### Next Week's Articles

Unless unforeseen developments arise, next week's major articles will deal with (1) U. S. housing and slum clearance, and (2) the Stalin controversy.

## News Quiz

### Voting Age

1. What states now permit voting at the age of 18?
2. Give arguments used by people who believe that 18-year-olds are experienced enough to vote.
3. How do the opponents of this viewpoint reply?
4. What arguments are set forth by observers who feel that the voting age should be reduced on a nation-wide scale, through a U. S. constitutional amendment?
5. What reply is given by those who think the matter should be left to our individual states?
6. Where does President Eisenhower stand on the question of teen-age voting?
7. List some important citizenship activities in which youths can engage, regardless of whether they are allowed to vote.

### Discussion

1. Do you think the voting age in this country should be lowered to 18? Why or why not?
2. If you favor teen-age voting, by what means do you feel it should be brought about? Explain your position.

### Great Britain

1. Why is the visit of the 2 top Soviet leaders to Britain this week in the world spotlight?
2. What troubled area is expected to be discussed during their stay?
3. Describe the problems faced by the British in this area.
4. Why is trade so important to Britain?
5. How has the Commonwealth made up in many ways for that nation's territorial losses?
6. Describe Britain's internal problems. What steps are being taken to remedy them?
7. What differences exist between her and us over Red China?
8. List some of the points that British and Americans have in common.

### Discussion

1. Do you think that the visit of the Russian leaders to Britain is likely to increase—or decrease—the likelihood of world peace? Explain.
2. Do you or do you not approve of Britain's trade with Red China? Give reasons for your answer.

### Miscellaneous

1. What do Republicans say about the record of the second session of the 84th Congress? How do the Democrats reply?
2. Why will the outcome of elections in Iceland next June be of importance to the United States and other NATO countries?
3. According to a recent Gallup Poll, is it likely that more or fewer American voters will go to the polls in November?
4. What is the present status of the 2 Moroccans?
5. Two Asian leaders plan to visit the United States during the summer. Who are they and what are their views toward our country's foreign policy?
6. Why has Dag Hammarskjold, UN Secretary-General, gone to the Middle East?
7. Thus far, has Kefauver or Stevenson done better in the primaries? Explain.

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- "The Atlantic Report: London," *The Atlantic Monthly*, March 1956.
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### Answers to Your Vocabulary

1. (c) distinguished; 2. (a) everywhere at the same time; 3. (d) set aside; 4. (c) prominent; 5. (a) become liable to; 6. (d) maintain; 7. (c) deceitful.

## THE LIGHTER SIDE

Two horses were gossiping before the Kentucky Derby.

"I'm going to win," said one.  
"How do you know?"  
"Because if I do, my master has promised to give me 2 extra bales of hay—and that ain't money."



"Did you want something, neighbor?"

"What did you mean telling your boy friend that I was deaf and dumb?"  
"I didn't say deaf."

"Why did you buy a dachshund for the children?"  
"So they could all pat him at once."

"Hello, is this the Better Business Bureau?"  
"Yes."  
"Well, could you come down and make our business a little better?"

"I wish to open an account."  
"Certainly, madam. How much do you wish to deposit?"  
"Nothing. I want to draw out \$40."

Senior Partner: Have you seen the cashier this morning?  
Junior Partner: Yes. He came in without his mustache and asked for a railroad timetable.

"He who laughs last, laughs best."  
"That may be, but he also gets a reputation for being stupid."

# Great Britain

(Continued from page 1)

necting the home islands with holdings in the Asian and Pacific areas.

Yet today Suez is being abandoned. Egypt will completely take over the base in June. Relations with Jordan are tense, too, since the dismissal by that nation's Arab officials of General Glubb, the English military leader who built up and commanded Jordan's army. There is also trouble stirring in the oil-rich Arab territories on the Persian Gulf—territories which have long been under Britain's wing.

## Troubled Cyprus

Still another major trouble spot is Cyprus, the island-colony in the eastern Mediterranean. Most natives of Cyprus are of Greek descent and have been violently rebelling against their rulers.

Britain feels it is vital that she retain her hold on Cyprus. She is making this Mediterranean island her principal base in the Middle East now that Suez is being abandoned.

Prime Minister Anthony Eden says that the Cyprus base is needed, for his nation is committed by treaties to help such lands as Turkey, Greece, Iraq, and Iran in case they are attacked. Moreover, he feels that the base is essential for protecting his country's Middle East oil supplies.

American columnist Joseph Alsop recently reported: "If the Middle Eastern oil sources are ever shut off, Britain will be publicly bankrupt within 30 days."

The strong measures which have been taken to create order on Cyprus have brought a good deal of criticism against Eden's government. As a result, Britain is having increased trouble throughout the region.

The Soviet Union is doing what it



BUSY STREET in Reading, England; population about 100,000. Airplanes, machinery, clothes, and drugs are made here.

can to fan the flames of the Middle East turmoil. It is supplying arms and other kinds of aid to various Arab lands. If it continues to do so, the result may be an all-out war between the Arab lands and Israel. The Russian offers are boosting Soviet prestige at the same time that British prestige is on the downswing.

It is almost certain that Eden will bring up the Middle East troubles in talks with Bulganin and Khrushchev. There is no doubt that the Russians, if they so decide, can do much to calm the troubled waters in this vital, oil-

rich area. The attitude which Bulganin and Khrushchev take may show just how sincere their campaign for Soviet-British cooperation really is.

The question arises: Why is Britain, a small island-nation—with an area only about the size of New York State and Pennsylvania combined—so involved in global affairs? Wouldn't she be better off if she did not concern herself so much with other areas of the world?

The answer lies mainly in the way the British people make a living. The nation's chief resources are its skilled workers, its coal, and its highly developed factories. Britain is one of the world's most advanced industrial nations. As a supplier of manufactured goods to other countries, she ranks second only to the United States.

More than many other industrial countries, Great Britain depends on overseas trade for its prosperity. It must secure about 50 per cent of its food and most of its raw materials abroad. Such basic materials as petroleum, copper, lead, zinc, rubber, and cotton have to be purchased entirely outside the country. Since Britain's iron ore is of poor quality, about half of this vital material has to be imported.

Britain takes these raw materials and makes them into finished products. She then sells many of these products abroad. Main exports include automobiles, machinery, electrical goods, cloth, and chemicals.

The British have to carry on a thriving trade to live. Their income from the sale of goods abroad is used to buy food and essential raw materials from other lands. If the flow of trade slows down, then living standards are bound to drop for the country's 51,000,000 people.

Therefore, one of Britain's basic policies has long been to maintain good trade relations with as many lands as possible. This is a main reason why Britain concerns herself to such a degree with foreign affairs.

Despite her troubles today in the Middle East, Britain still exerts a good deal of influence throughout the world.

She has made up for many of her territorial losses by inducing a number of the lands that became free to remain in the Commonwealth—a loose association of nations tied together in various ways but particularly in matters of trade.

For example, India, Pakistan, and Ceylon—while politically independent—are all members of the Commonwealth. Other members—in addition to Britain—include Canada, Australia, New Zealand, and South Africa.

About one-fourth of the world's population lives in Commonwealth areas. Close to one-third of the world's total trade is carried on among these nations. By maintaining this grouping of nations, Britain has retained many of the trade benefits of the old British Empire, while, at the same time, giving native peoples the freedom they want in handling their own political affairs.

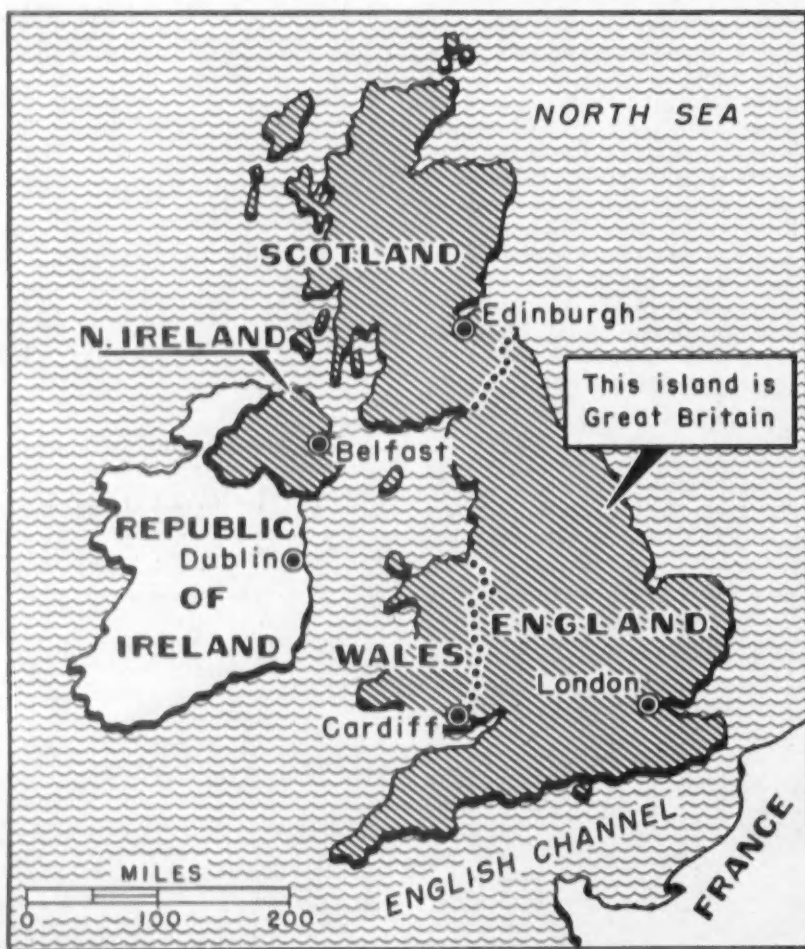
In addition to the Middle East situation, Britain is confronted by a big problem at home. The country is on the brink of an economic crisis. Living costs have been shooting upward, and treasury reserves have been dropping. In her dealings with the rest of the world, Britain last year spent \$288,000,000 more than she took in.

## Boom Period

Strangely enough, this situation developed at a time when the country was in many ways experiencing a boom period. In 1955 Britain produced more goods than ever before in a single year. Practically everyone who wanted a job could find employment. Personal incomes were higher than ever before.

But Britain's present troubles were actually caused by last year's high rate of activity. With money plentiful, British citizens cut loose and bought the products they had wanted through years of rationing and controls—autos, TV sets, household appliances, and other items. The great demand for all kinds of goods forced prices upward.

Moreover, the buying of these products at home cut into the amount avail-



GREAT BRITAIN, the island, consists of England, Wales, and Scotland. The 3, plus Northern Ireland, make up the United Kingdom. The Republic of Ireland is completely independent, and does not belong to the United Kingdom.



able for sale abroad. Therefore, exports did not rise as they should have. The fact was that the nation was consuming more than it was producing. For a country which must sell abroad a large portion of its manufactured goods in order to live, this trend—if long continued—would be disastrous.

The British government has been taking firm steps to put the country on a sounder financial footing. Its leaders are pushing sales abroad, and have put taxes on certain items in order to discourage the sale at home of those products which should be sold overseas. It is hoped that these steps will get Britain's foreign trade in better balance and will also check the trend toward rising prices.

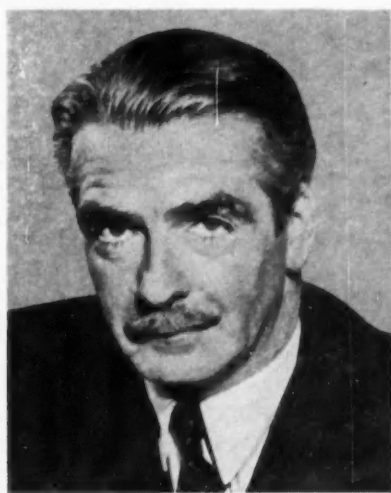
#### American Attitude

Americans are anxious to see Britain solve the tough problems, both at home and abroad, which are now facing her. This nation is one of our closest allies. We have fought side by side in both world wars, and have stood together in strengthening the free world against the threat of communism.

To be sure, we do not always see eye to eye. We have, for example, long disagreed on the subject of Red China. The British recognize the communists as China's rightful rulers. We regard the Nationalist government of Chiang Kai-shek on Formosa as the rightful one. The British also carry on considerable trade with Red China, while we carry on almost none. The British do not like the Chinese communists any more than we do, but they feel it essential to deal with them.

Rightly or wrongly, Britain feels that her trade with Red China will, in the long run, strengthen nations of the free world more than it strengthens China. On the other hand, with our big market of 167,000,000 people in the United States, we are not so dependent on foreign trade as is Britain. U. S. trade with Red China—our leaders are convinced—would help that country more than it would help us.

Will Bulganin and Khrushchev try to exploit these differences in order to split Britain and the United States?

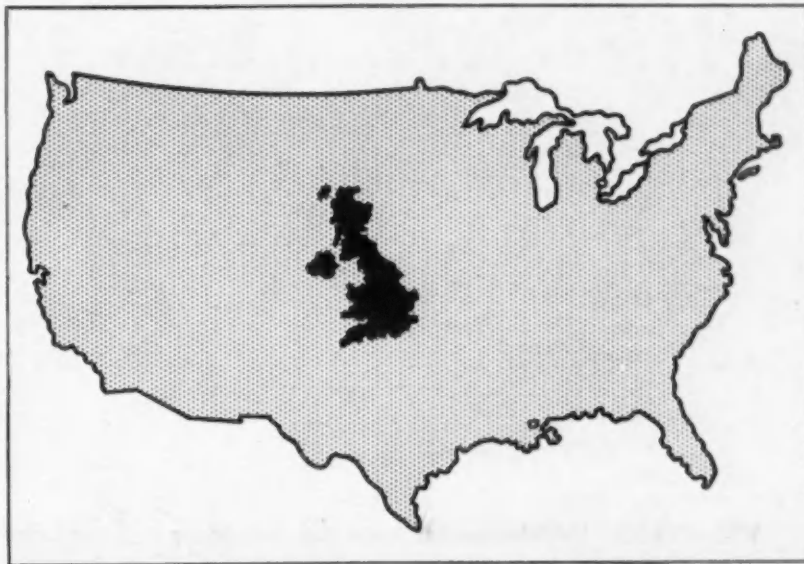


BRITISH Prime Minister Anthony Eden is head of the government

Some observers feel that is what the Soviet officials may try to do. Whether they will have any success remains to be seen.

It is doubtful, however, that Britain and the United States can be seriously divided. Most people in both countries seem to agree that the points we have in common—language, way of life, and opposition to communism—far outweigh our differences.

—By HOWARD SWEET



THE UNITED KINGDOM has a population of over 51,000,000. Its area of 94,279 square miles compares with 3,022,387 square miles for the United States.

## Small Island Nation

### United Kingdom Is One of Our Staunchest Allies

**G**REAT Britain, or the United Kingdom, is our leading ally. It is important for us to know as many basic facts about this island nation as possible.

**Geography.** England, Scotland, and Wales make up Great Britain—which takes up one large island. Northern Ireland, across the Irish Sea, is associated with Britain in matters of government. The 2 regions together make up the *United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland*. That is the official name for the whole country, although we often use only the word Britain, Great Britain, or just United Kingdom.

The size of the entire area is very small. It is only a little more than 94,000 square miles—or about the size of New York and Pennsylvania combined. When a map of the United Kingdom is placed on one of ours, it doesn't take up much of the total space.

**Government.** The British govern themselves as a democracy. Queen Elizabeth rules in name only—as a symbol of unity for the nation and for the British Commonwealth of Nations (see page 1 article). She has no real power to govern. Government is carried on by a prime minister and his cabinet.

These top executive leaders must be members of Parliament. The House of Commons, called the lower house of Parliament, is Britain's real lawmaking body. It chooses one of its members to be prime minister, and he then selects his cabinet. The House of Lords (upper house) is mainly an honorary group, although it does have a very limited amount of power.

Anthony Eden is now the prime minister. He is a member of the Conservative Party. The Labor Party is another big political group. The Liberal Party is a smaller one.

**People.** The population of 51,000,000 is descended from the tribes—Celts, Angles, Saxons, Jutes, and others—who came to the islands in the 5th century, A. D., or earlier, and from the Normans who came in 1066. These people, relatively few in number and with limited land and resources, have possessed qualities enabling them to spread their power and influence all over the world.

**Economy.** Although farms do not produce nearly enough to supply the country's food needs, the raising of

livestock is an important occupation. Wheat, barley, and oats are among the leading crops.

The United Kingdom is one of the world's most important industrial nations. Locomotives, heavy machinery, steel, china, wool, and cotton textiles are among the principal manufactured products. Coal and iron ore are the chief products of her mines.

Just as Britain is unable to produce enough food for her people, she is also unable to obtain enough raw materials at home to keep her factories running. Consequently, she has to import large quantities of both.

**Education.** About 94 per cent of British young people attend public-supported schools. They are required to stay in school only until the age of 15. When they are about 11, they take examinations which determine the type of secondary school they will attend. The top 15 per cent or so in the exams go to secondary schools that prepare them for college.

**Sports.** Young people, like those in America, enjoy movies, parties, and athletic events. Soccer and cricket are popular sports. Soccer is the British version of football. When watching cricket, one is reminded of baseball, but the 2 games are actually very different from each other.

Bicycling is also a popular pastime. On any holiday, crowds of cyclists may be seen heading for scenic areas. The lake district of northern England is a favorite area for cyclists. So are the rugged but interesting lands of Scotland and Northern Ireland.

**Tourists.** Because of its beautiful scenery and its many places of historical and literary interest, Britain is a favorite land for foreign tourists. They find the ancient but modern city of London a fascinating place.

Another popular tourist area is the country around Stratford-on-Avon. Here William Shakespeare lived. Today, a theater in that city bears his name, and visitors may attend productions of his plays.

**Living conditions.** All during World War II and for about 8 years afterwards, meat, sugar, eggs, cooking fats, cheese, and butter were scarce and were doled out in small quantities. Conditions are much better now. One may buy anything he wants—if he has the money. Prices and taxes on many products, however, are quite high.

## Monthly Test

**NOTE TO TEACHERS:** This test covers issues of the AMERICAN OBSERVER dated March 5, 12, 19, 26, and April 9. The answer key appears in the April 16 issue of the *Civic Leader*. **Scoring:** If grades are to be calculated on a percentage basis, we suggest that a deduction of 3 points be made for each wrong or omitted answer.

**DIRECTIONS TO STUDENTS:** In each of the following items, select the correct answer and write its letter on your answer sheet.

1. Lobbying becomes an objectionable practice (a) when large numbers of people try to influence the votes of lawmakers; (b) if it is carried on by big labor unions; (c) if it is done by large and powerful corporations; (d) when lobbyists use dishonest or undercover methods.

2. Many of our leaders feel that the strongest barrier to the growth of communism in Southeast Asia would be (a) military occupation of all Southeast Asian lands by UN troops; (b) the admission of Red China to membership in the UN; (c) a balanced program of U. S. economic and military aid; (d) the use of force in each country to wipe out the communists.

3. The Supreme Court decision of 1954 on the question of segregation in the public schools overruled the 58-year-old (a) "interposition" act; (b) "separate but equal" doctrine; (c) "illegal encroachment" law; (d) "prompt and reasonable" policy.

4. Latin American countries buy from us large quantities of (a) meat and hides; (b) tin and copper; (c) machinery and trucks; (d) wheat and corn.

5. President Eisenhower said that he vetoed the natural gas bill because (a) he disliked most features of the bill; (b) it gave too much power to the federal government; (c) it failed to protect the consumers of natural gas; (d) lobbying for the bill had gone too far.

6. Many people believe that the laws regulating political campaign expenditures should be revised because existing laws (a) are applied in only a few states; (b) are ineffective and full of loopholes; (c) apply only to primary elections; (d) do not apply to present office-holders.

7. The largest single part of our money supply is in the form of (a) checking accounts; (b) coins; (c) gold; (d) paper bills.

8. Russia is now seeking to gain the cooperation of Asian nations with (a) warlike threats; (b) offers of free elections; (c) programs of passive resistance; (d) promises of economic aid.

9. A major problem in a number of Latin American nations is that (a) their standard of living depends too much on the sale of one product; (b) they carry on almost no trade with other lands; (c) their governments are controlled almost entirely by local communist parties; (d) they lack the resources to attain decent standards of living.

10. Those states which have adopted resolutions or acts of "interposition" (a) believe that state powers are greater than federal powers on all matters; (b) insist on complete state control of education; (c) want the federal government to pay all educational expenses; (d) agree entirely with the 1954 decision of the Supreme Court on segregation.

11. Which two of the following nations are not members of the Southeast Asia Treaty Organization? (a) Burma and Indonesia; (b) France and the United States; (c) Australia and Britain; (d) Thailand and Pakistan.

12. A big job of the Federal Reserve System is to (a) print paper money for the nation's banks; (b) provide the funds needed to meet expenses of the federal government; (c) help prevent rapid changes in the value of money; (d) collect income taxes for the federal government.

13. Our foreign policy in the Middle East will be successful if we (a) remove U. S. military forces from that area; (b) set up strict controls over all governments there; (c) can maintain friendly terms with both Israel and the Arab states; (d) permit Russia to share in the development of Middle East resources.

(Concluded on page 8)



## Monthly Test

(Concluded from page 7)

14. A major barrier to the development of Latin America is (a) lack of natural resources; (b) unbearable climate; (c) language differences; (d) high mountain ranges.

15. The Federal Reserve System helps to prevent business booms and depressions by regulating (a) utility rates; (b) interest rates; (c) tax rates; (d) tariff rates.

After the corresponding number on your answer sheet for each of the following items, write the word, name, or phrase that best completes the question.

16. Name the Asian nation which is seeking almost 2 billion dollars in aid to carry out a 5-year industrial development program.

17. Many people living on the island of Cyprus are demanding that Britain permit them to unite with \_\_\_\_\_.

18. Late last month President Eisenhower joined in discussing common problems with the governmental leaders of Mexico and \_\_\_\_\_.

19. In agreements signed last month, France granted almost complete independence to the North African territories of Morocco and \_\_\_\_\_.

20. Building up trade and promoting cooperation in other ways among the 21 republics of the Western Hemisphere is the chief business of the \_\_\_\_\_.

21. The executive departments of the federal government are headed by members of the President's \_\_\_\_\_.

22. Russian leaders are now doing everything they can to blacken the name of \_\_\_\_\_.

Identify the following persons. Choose the correct description from the list below. Write the letter which precedes that description opposite the number of the person to whom it applies.

- 23. George Humphrey
- 24. Adolfo Ruiz Cortines
- 25. Dag Hammarskjöld
- 26. James Mitchell
- 27. Sherman Adams
- 28. James Eastland

- A. Secretary-General of the UN
- B. President of Brazil
- C. Secretary of Labor
- D. Secretary of the Treasury
- E. Assistant to the President
- F. Senator from Mississippi
- G. President of Mexico

After the corresponding number on your answer sheet for each of the following items, write the letter of the word or phrase that makes the best definition of the word in *italics*.

29. In spite of the boy's explanation, the principal remained *dubious*. (a) angry; (b) doubtful; (c) convinced; (d) annoyed.

30. In some countries governmental powers *transcend* the rights of individuals. (a) disregard; (b) rise above; (c) strengthen; (d) weaken.

31. *Stringent* regulations were imposed. (a) unnecessary; (b) secret; (c) numerous; (d) strict.

32. The candidate made *scurrilous* statements about his opponent. (a) untrue; (b) personal; (c) abusive; (d) unfriendly.

33. It was *surmised* that the court decision would be favorable. (a) guessed; (b) known; (c) doubted; (d) certain.

## A Career for Tomorrow - - - As a Chemist

THERE are rapidly growing opportunities for young people in the field of chemistry. A trained chemist is truly a "frontiersman of the future," pioneering the unknown and helping to bring to people new products made from nature's rich gifts.

Chemists have given us ready mixed and frozen foods; more abundant and varied farm crops; wonderful home materials and appliances; nylon, orlon, and other fine fabrics; new drugs and medicines; better weapons for defense; and thousands of other benefits for everyday living.

Next week is Chemical Progress Week. From April 23 to 28, special radio and television programs will be on the air from coast to coast. In some places, arrangements may be made for students to visit chemical laboratories and factories.

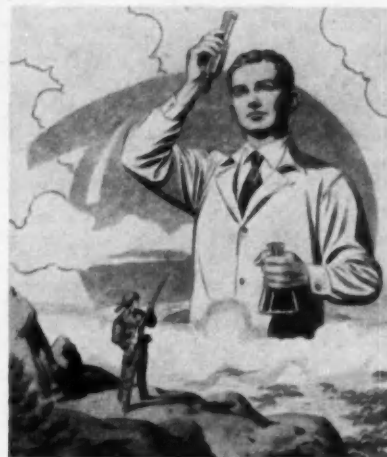
The special week is being observed to help remind us of the important part that chemistry plays in our lives, and of the great need for more young people to enter this vitally important profession.

If you want to become a chemist, find out if you have the qualifications needed for success in the field. Chemistry is an exact science, so you will have to have an orderly mind and be highly accurate in your work. You must like scientific subjects, and possess a mixture of patience and enthusiasm, for these qualities keep scientists on the job despite countless disappointments.

The better trained you are in chemistry and related sciences, the better are your chances for success and a

satisfying life of accomplishment. This means a college preparatory course with emphasis on the sciences in high school, and 4 years or more of college training.

For the better jobs in industry, government, or teaching, you will need an M.A. or Ph.D. degree. It takes 1 to 2 years beyond college for the M.A., and 3 to 4 years for the Ph.D.



MANUFACTURING CHEMISTS' ASSOCIATION, INC.  
DISCOVERIES by chemists are making big changes in our way of living

Of course, long years of schooling are expensive. But don't let a shortage of funds prevent you from becoming a chemist if you are really interested in becoming one. Industry in general, and the chemical industry in particular, is providing more and more financial help to students who show promise.

Here are a few steps you can take

to help yourself get started in this career:

1. Apply to the American Chemical Society, 1155 16th Street, N. W., Washington 5, D. C., for a list of colleges and universities which meet its standards for chemistry. Select several which you favor and find out all you can about their tuition and living expenses.

2. Look into part-time job opportunities which are offered by colleges or by business establishments near the campus.

3. Apply for admission to and financial aid from schools you consider most suitable.

4. Find out about possible scholarships and other types of financial aid offered by local industries, professional groups, service clubs, and other groups in your community. Your guidance counselor or principal may be able to help you along this line.

Your earnings, after you finish your training, will be quite good. The starting pay for persons with a B.A. or B.S. degree ranges from \$350 to \$400 a month, while young Ph.D.'s usually receive from \$500 to \$600 a month. Experienced chemists earn from \$5,000 to \$20,000 or more a year, depending upon training, ability, and the type of work they do.

For additional information you can get a booklet called "Frontiersmen of the Future," from the Manufacturing Chemists' Association, 1625 Eye Street, N. W., Washington 6, D. C. (We are indebted to this organization for assisting us in the preparation of our article.)—By ANTON BERLE

## Historical Background - - - Voting Changes

"YOUR every voter, as surely as your chief magistrate, exercises a public trust." With these words, Grover Cleveland reminded his listeners of the importance of taking part in elections. Cleveland made this statement in 1884 when he was elected President.

The privilege of voting has always been one of our most cherished rights, and a number of steps were taken in our history to give more people a hand in government. The effort to lower the voting age from 21 to 18 (see page 1 story) is another step in that direction.

In colonial times, only men who were at least 21 years of age and owners of property could vote. Some of the colonies also required that voters be members of certain churches.

When our Constitution was adopted, that document left regulation of elections almost entirely to the states. In general, the states kept the colonial system but lowered the amount of property a voter was required to own.

In the 1800's, property ownership as a requirement for voting gradually was abolished. Pioneers of the West led a movement to permit all white adult males to vote. Most of them could do so by 1860. Then the 15th Amendment to the Constitution, adopted in 1870, made it possible for Negro men to vote. Actually, a few Negroes had been given balloting privileges long before that time.

The territory which later became the state of Wyoming granted the vote

to women in 1869. A number of other states, particularly in the West, soon followed Wyoming's example. Women throughout the nation could vote after the 19th Amendment to the Constitution was adopted in 1920.

Along with the extension of the franchise, methods of voting have also changed over the years. In colonial times, voters generally appeared at the polling place and called out their choice of candidate for public office in a loud voice. Candidates often stayed nearby to smile and bow to their supporters at the polls, and frown upon those who chose the opponent.

Paper ballots were first used as early as 1629 in Salem, Massachusetts. But it wasn't until the early 1800's that they were widely used in elections. A few states continued to use voice vot-

ing until the mid-1800's, and Kentucky didn't adopt the paper ballot until 1890.

The early paper ballots were plainly marked with the candidate's name on them, and the voter put them into a ballot box in public view. Hence, all bystanders knew how everyone voted.

Pressure was sometimes used by groups to get citizens to vote a certain way. Some employers, for instance, stayed near the polls to make certain that their employees voted for the "right" candidate.

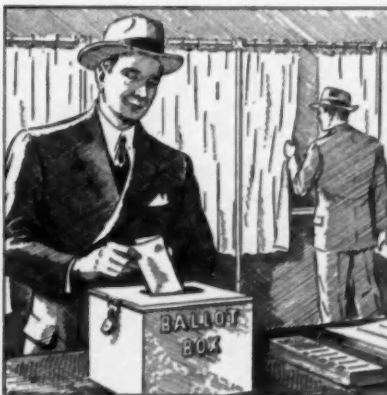
In an effort to do away with such election abuses, a movement was begun in the late 1800's for secret voting. Called the "Australian ballot," because the idea was developed in that country, secret voting was first tried in America by Louisville, Kentucky, in 1888.

Massachusetts adopted the plan that same year, and many other states did likewise a short time later. By 1950, when South Carolina began to use the secret ballot, all 48 states had changed over to the plan.

The development of voting machines, which are in an enclosed booth where the voter can select candidates by pulling a lever, helped to speed up the counting of ballots. Experiments were made with such machines in the 1870's, but they weren't actually used in elections until 1892. At that time, the citizens of Longport, New York, tried out the new machines.

Today, voting machines are used by some or all communities in nearly three-fourths of the states.

—By ANTON BERLE



SOUTHERN RAILWAY  
THE SECRET ballot is the key to a democratic form of government